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January 28, 1999 LB 191, 202

discrimination against consumers which results from the prohibition under the current law. Banks in other parts of the state have exercised insurance powers...have exercised insurance powers and have provided benefits to the public in offering these services to communi...to their consumers. Bankers have done a creditable job of providing this service to the consumer, and the consumer is the ultimate beneficiary. Allowing state charter banks in Omaha into the insurance brokerage business will increase competition and thereby improve efficiency and reduce costs to the consumer. I appreciate that the committee advanced this bill with no dissenting votes. And I would urge the consideration of LB 191.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the advancement of LB 191? Senator Brown, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BROWN: I would just urge the advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 191 to E & R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 191.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 191 advances. LB 202.

CLERK: (LB) 202, by Senator Vrtiska. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 11, referred to the Banking Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to open on 202.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I have brought to you this morning LB 202, which is basically an extension of LB 144, that those of you who have been around here for some time will remember was introduced in 1995 for the purpose of providing some grants for entrepreneurship and for partnership. I've passed out you a booklet that will explain to